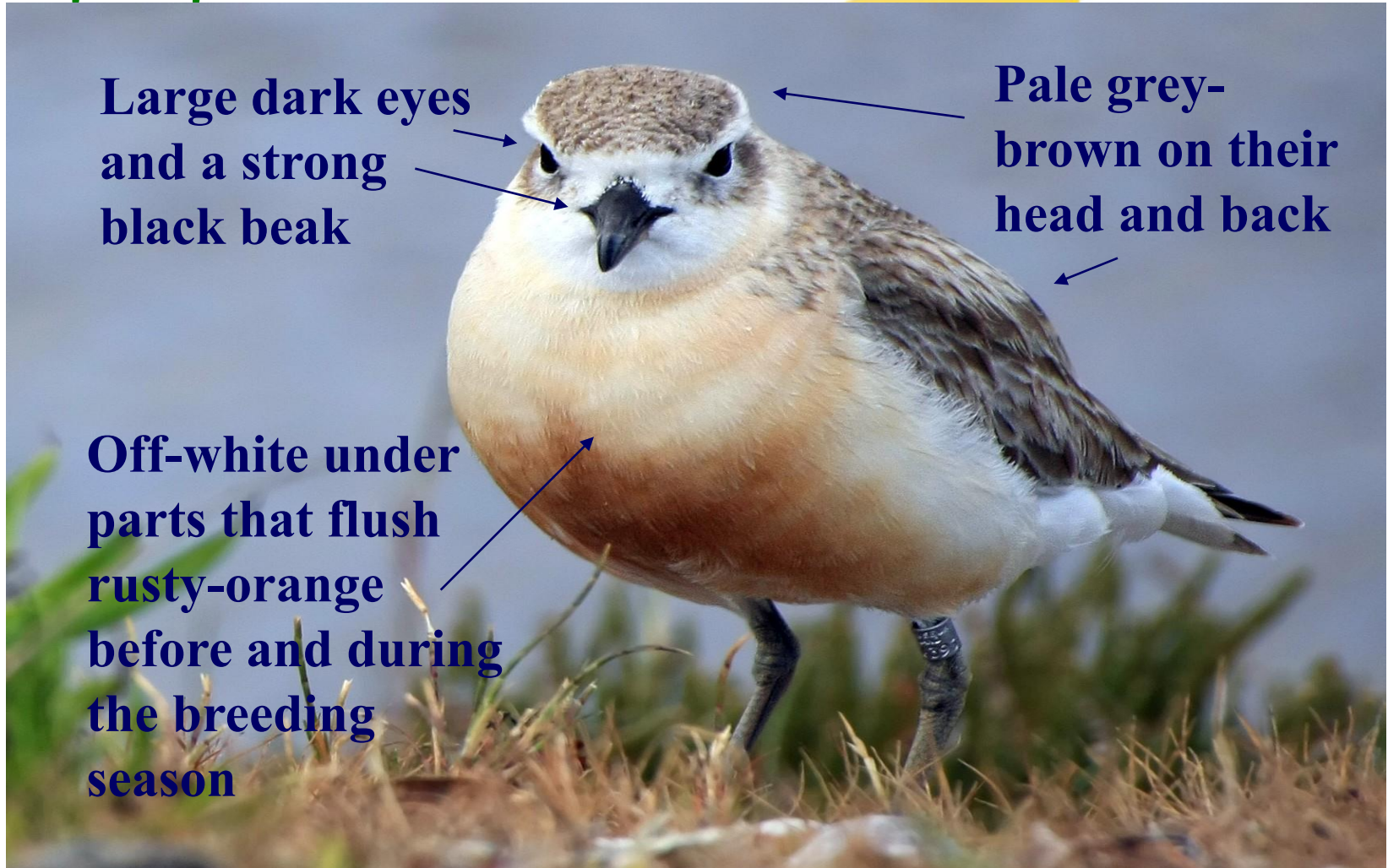




# The New Zealand Dotterel

# What does a Dotterel look like?



# Spot the Dotterel and her eggs!!



**The camouflage colours can make the birds difficult to see when they are standing still.**



**Their chip-chip is often heard before they are seen**



**They have a habit of running very fast before pausing to feed**



# Where can we find the Northern Dotterel?

- From Kawhia northwards on the west coast
- From North Cape southwards on the east coast of Northland
- Auckland (including the Great Barrier Islands & Waiheke)
- Various beaches in the Coromandel Peninsula
- Bay of Plenty (including Matakana Island)

**Note # The southern Dotterel is found on Stewart Island**



# The Dotterel's Habitat



**Their favoured habitat has sandpits with lots of driftwood cover. They like to be near estuaries or river mouths.**

**The dotterel will nest on:**

**Sand or gravel  
beaches**

**Dunes**

**Shell banks**

**Waste rock at the  
embankment at Newmont  
Waihi Gold's Martha  
mine**

**Bare areas  
near estuaries  
and river  
mouths**



# Predators and Threats



Rats



Cats



Dogs



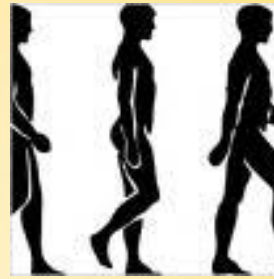
Stoats



Hedgehogs



Black-backed  
gulls



People



Storms

**NZ dotterel eggs and chicks are very vulnerable to predation and their nests are easily destroyed. The dotterel is an endangered species with only about 1700 birds remaining**

# Controlling Predators

- **Hedgehogs, stoats and rats** are a major concern as they feed on the dotterels eggs and chicks. There are 14 breeding sites on the Coromandel Peninsula which are protected by 200 traps. The traps are baited with eggs and dried rabbit meat.
- **Cats** will feed on the eggs, chicks or even adult dotterels. Live cat traps are used in the prime breeding sites. These traps are checked daily.
- **Dogs** that are uncontrolled often break through breeding barriers. They run down and kill adult dotterels and their flightless chicks. During breeding season dogs are either banned from beaches or required to be on leash at all times.
- **Birds of prey** will kill adult dotterels or their chicks. To protect the chicks plastic buckets are dug into the sand and placed on their sides. These form a small cave that the chicks can hide in.

# What can you do?



Because the nests are camouflaged they are easily trampled on. When disturbed the adult dotterel will leave the nest to try and lure people away. The eggs are then left open and vulnerable to the elements of nature and predators. If there are chicks they can be prevented from reaching their feeding grounds causing them to starve.

Stay outside of  
fenced areas

Watch out for  
'Birds  
Nesting' signs

Keep dogs, vehicles  
and boats off the  
beaches where the  
dotterel is nesting

Share the  
beaches with  
care

Help make others aware



# Breeding and Behaviour



August						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**Dotterels breed from August though to March**



**Each year the birds will return to the same location**



**They nest near the high tide line to give them a clear view of predators**



**The eggs are the colour of wet sand**

**They can lay up to three eggs per nest**

# Breeding and Behaviour



**If their eggs are destroyed a dotterel can lay eggs up to four times in a season**

**Pairs of dotterels will defend their nest aggressively**



**Chicks hatch after 28 days and are the size of a large bumble bee**



**Chicks will normally leave the nest 6 to 7 weeks after hatching. However if continually disturbed the chicks growth will be slower.**

# Why is Newmont Waihi Gold involved?



In 1995 dotterels began nesting at the waste rock embankment. NWG notified DOC

DOC and NWG formed a partnership and initiated the 'NZ Dotterel Watch Programme'

Together DOC and NWG protect and monitor the dotterel during the breeding season in the Peninsula

# What is involved in managing the dotterel?



**Appointing a ranger and wardens**

**Fencing off areas where nesting has occurred**

**Banding of chicks**

**Promoting awareness**

**Putting up signage.**

**Predator control**

**Taking measures to reduce the loss of nests and chicks to high tides and storm surges**





# Volunteers

## Local Volunteers are called minders

**Minders act as a rangers eyes and ears. They also help to manage and monitor the dotterel. Their role includes:**

- **Predator trapping**
- **Monitoring nest sites**
- **Reporting to the ranger**
- **Raising awareness of threats to the species**



# The end!

